JEANNE D'ARC WHITE WINE CALIFORNIA 2022



The Jeanne D'Arc has always been a confessed project. We like Orange wines and want to make them and drink them and encourage our customers to do the same. They are funky and hard to swing people around to (though getting easier and more accepted in recent days/years), but we feel strongly that they have their place and offer a complexity that is hard to match. The skins bring in a savoriness and pseudo minerality as well as a texture and mouthfeel that is unique, but also fun and food friendly. The lack of SO2 during aging lets the wine work itself out naturally, usually oxidizing a bit, but ultimately reaching a balance of acid and phenolic composition that suits itself.

This is the 13th vintage of Jeanne D'Arc. We have definitely been trending toward this wine being a Chenin Blanc based blend rather than entirely Chenin. This vintage includes about 12% skin fermented Sauvignon Blanc from Vecino in Potter Valley and 8% Viognier from the Mangels Ranch in Suisun Valley leaving about 80% Chenin Blanc. Since 2017, we have been working with an old Chenin vineyard on Merritt Island in Clarksburg farmed by David Ogilvie who I have known since I was in college.

As always, the focus is on Chenin's ability to be subtle yet irresistible even in this varietally questionable circumstance. The Chenin was picked on August 23rd at 18.8°B then destemmed to an open-top fermentor. The wine was not chilled or inoculated. The fermentation began naturally after 4 days on the skins. Three weeks later, we pressed the dry juice off of the skins to neutral French barrels and let the Malolactic Fermentation proceed naturally till complete in neutral barrels. Post-fermentation, we did not add sulfur dioxide. The first and only addition (20 ppm) was made just before bottling. The final wine is unfiltered and unfined and this vintage has a fair bit of haze and sediment to add to the flavor, texture, and overall funkiness. Drink to Joan!

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